(2) oral agreements, at least in cases where the lease is admitted or proved by Civil Court record;

(3) suits brought outside the revenue year, or year of tenancy.

Reply of Government.—Impracticable.

SUBJECT No. 154.

Royalty on stones, sand, etc.

Messrs. Venkataramiah, and Ranganna, Manjarabad Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) Ryots of a village are allowed to remove free of cost, stones, earth, sand, etc., from their own village but they are charged with royalty when they remove such articles from other villages. Pray that the ryots of one village be allowed to take earth, stones, etc., from another neighbouring village free from royalty.

(*b*) The Public Works contractors are in the habit of removing earth, stones, etc., for purposes of road and other works without payment of any royalty thereon as required by the Government Order in the matter. Moreover these contractors should be directed to remove stones, etc., in such a way as not to cause inconvenience to the people of villages.

Reply of Government.—(*a*) The privileges given under existing rules are sufficient.

(*b*) Noted.

FOREST.

(*Nos. 155 to 176.*)

SUBJECT No. 155.

A Committee to consider the question of forest denudation.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—There is an opinion in some quarters that the forests are now being overworked. The Forest Department does not, however, accept the correctness of this statement. A Committee may be appointed to consider the question of denudation of forests.

For a timber tree to attain maturity it takes from 100 to 150 years. The number of trees likely to attain this age is rapidly decreasing. In the Muthodi State Forest, there used to be formerly 40 or 50 such trees per acre. Now there are only about 10.

Reply of Government.—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 156.

The bonus on sandal trees.

(1) Messrs. Karibasaiya and Ramachandrappa Dube, Kumsi subtaluk; Messrs. C. Vamana Rao, Subba Rao, Nagar taluk.

Summary of discussion.—(1) Owing to the profuse growth of sandal trees in the malnad, the rule requiring the *darkhastdar* to pay the present value of the bonus of sandal trees on the lands applied for by him for cultivation is at present a hindrance to the free expansion of cultivation, as the present value of such bonus is, in several cases, a heavy sum. It is prayed that the present rule may be so altered as to vest the entire right over the sandal trees in Government. This will be beneficial both to the Government and the ryots.

(2) Mr. C. Subba Rao, Shimoga Municipality.

(2) The promise of refund of the amount paid by the ryot at some distant future date is a possibility so

remote that people are not encouraged to take up lands containing sandal trees for cultivation. Either the present rules may be abolished or the value of sandal trees paid by the applicant may be ordered to be refunded to him when he relinquishes the land, provided that he shows the same number of sandal trees on the land at the time of relinquishment.

(3) Mr. K. Shankaranarayana Rao, Nagar Sabha.

(3) At all malki sales the full estimated value of sandal trees is recovered from applicants in addition to the price realised by the sale of other malki. The existing rule may be so modified as to remove this hardship by excluding sandalwood from the malki sale and allowing the holder of the land half the value of the sandalwood thereon when it is removed for sale. This procedure, while it helps free darkhasts for cultivation of lands containing sandal trees, encourages the people to promote the growth of sandal trees springing up on their lands.

(4) Mr. B. Sitharamiah, Chikmagalur taluk.

(4) Lands—wet, dry or waste,—containing sandal trees may be sold to the public as before, without valuing the sandal trees, and recovering the present value of the bonus thereon.

Mr. Pilkington.—The rule has acted well in the case of those who have taken up the land for a long term of years such as coffee planters and garden-owners. It acts prejudicially to those who take up land for wet and dry cultivation, which in the malnad are given up within a short time. Some distinction is therefore necessary.

Messrs. D. Hanumantha Rao, and Gubbi Ramanuja Iyengar.—Whatever may be the disadvantage in the malnad the concession has been a great boon to the ryots in the maidan and the rules do not require alteration.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered.

SUBJECT NO. 157.

The special contract system for the disposal of forest produce.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk

Summary of discussion.—The special contract system may be abolished, and all timber cut and sold only by the departmental agency. In the Malabar Forests this system is pursued. If the timber is collected by the Forest Department and sold by auction like sandal at depots after proper advertisement, the timber will fetch better prices and the risk of overfelling will also be reduced.

Reply of Government.—The Malabar system will be enquired into.

SUBJECT NO. 158.

Concessions to holders of lands containing sandal trees.

Messrs. C. Srinivasa Rao Chikmagalur taluk, and Bhistaiya, Yedahalli sub-taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Sandalwood concessions granted by Government to ryots have been of no benefit as the departmental authorities nullify the best intentions of Government. The Forest Department does not comply with the requisitions of ryots for the removal of mature or dead sandal trees from their holdings. If an application is made for the removal of a mature tree, the reply